

July 12, 2000

To: GSL Brine Shrimp Companies

From: Michael R. Marshall DVM, State Veterinarian

Subject: Importation Requirements for Non-Great Salt Lake Cysts into Utah

CC: Earl Rogers, DVM; Kent Hauck, UDAF; Clay Perschon UDWR

Background

Recently questions have been raised about the importation of non-GSL brine shrimp cysts. A review of the law shows the following apply: R58-1-4 (B&C), R58-17-13, and R657-3-26, 28. The Utah Department of Agriculture & Food (UDAF) requires entry permits and certificates of veterinary health before any zoological animal may be imported into Utah. We are concerned that importation of non-native cysts may unintentionally contaminate Utah products and resources with unwanted pathogens, nuisance species, or non-native species of different genetic composition, thus affecting the health and integrity of the Utah product or resource. Effective immediately, the UDAF provides the following importation requirements, which apply to cysts or eggs of all marine and freshwater invertebrates, including brine shrimp (*Artemia*), water fleas (*Daphnia*), fairy shrimp (*Branchipus*, *Eubbranchipus*), etc.

Requirements for Importation

1. **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection:** The importing company requests that a veterinarian, domiciled in the country of origin, sign and FAX (801-538-7126) a certificate of veterinary inspection to UDAF. The certificate shall include:
 - (a) The species and strain of aquatic animal to be imported;
 - (b) The weight of cysts to be imported;
 - (c) The method of packaging of cysts for shipment;
 - (d) The name and location of the body of water from which the cysts originate;
 - (e) A statement concerning the presence or absence of diseases affecting brine shrimp and other problems in the area from which the cysts originate to include the following:
 - Viruses and harmful pathogens, which infect all marine and freshwater invertebrates at the source;
 - Metschnikowia artemiae*, *Mycobacterium marinum* and/or *Vibrio* associated with the cysts;
 - Knowledge of detrimental levels of harmful chemicals, irradiation, etc. at the source;
 - Nuisance plant and animal species in the source waters.
 - (f) History of inspection and test results or a statement of unavailability of the same;
 - (g) Disinfection of cysts (date and method).
2. **Testing:** The following minimum tests are required:

- (a) Pathogenic bacteria (*Anthrax*, *Clostridium*, *Salmonella*, *Pasteurella*);
 - (b) If viruses or harmful pathogens of marine or freshwater invertebrates are endemic to the source area, then testing of cysts for the pathogen in question may be required. Pathogens include WSSV, YHV, TSV, BMN, MBV, BP, IHHN, HPV, NHP.
3. **Entry Permits:** Following satisfactory review of the proposed importation and successful completion of necessary testing, UDAF will issue an entry permit number, obtainable by calling 801-538-7029. An entry permit number is required for each shipment. Presently there is no charge for this service. The exporter shall write the entry permit number on the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection and FAX (801-538-7126) it to UDAF, after which time importation may begin.
4. **Disinfection of Cysts:** Prior to importation into Utah, all cysts require cleaning and disinfection using one of the following:
- (a) 200 ppm Povidone iodine, 10 minutes
 - (b) 200 ppm bleach, 20 minutes
 - (c) 200 ppm potassium permanganate, 20 minutes

Utah Inspections

During regular inspections of brine shrimp companies in Utah, UDAF officials may request the following for imported animals:

- (a) The original certificate of veterinary inspection and import permit number;
- (b) Shipping records;
- (c) History of inspections and test results;
- (d) Records of cyst disinfection;
- (e) Method and site inspection of wastewater treatment and disposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service. If you have questions, please direct them to 801-538-7029 or 801-538-7162.